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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)**

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)
STATISTICS DIRECTORATE**

Joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS)
(Geneva, 17-19 May 2004)

Topic (ii): Development of IT strategies in statistical offices

THE IT POLICY OF STATISTICS SWEDEN

Supporting Paper

Submitted by Statistics Sweden¹

Summary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. A new IT organization was established at Statistics Sweden in July 2000. In order to elucidate roles and responsibilities, an IT-policy was stipulated in June 2002.

II. OVERALL GOALS AND PRINCIPLES

2. Statistics Sweden shall:

- develop, produce and disseminate statistics for the needs of users and customers;
- coordinate and support the Swedish system for official statistics;
- actively contribute to international statistical cooperation.

3. Statistics Sweden's IT infrastructure shall be designed to efficiently support the statistics production process and the related internal and external communication needs.

4. IT activities shall have the following overall goals: stability, security and efficient operations.

III. GUIDELINES FOR IT ACTIVITIES

5. Statistics Sweden's IT activities shall be determined by the needs of statistics production.

6. IT activities shall:

- be conducted according to Statistics Sweden's own standards and principles as well as external generally accepted ones;

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- contribute to attaining Statistics Sweden's goals for the work environment;
- include active monitoring of the rest of the world to provide a basis of long-term planning required to allow Statistics Sweden to benefit from new technology.

IV. CONTENT AND APPLICATION

A. Statistics Sweden's IT organization and division of responsibility

7. Statistics Sweden's IT organization is decentralized and exists on three levels:

- the central level, through the IT unit;
- the departmental level, through the seven IT functions;
- the programme level, through the IT personnel in the programmes.

8. *The IT Council*, consisting of the departmental level IT managers, shall form Statistics Sweden's IT organization steering committee. The Council shall also be advisers to the IT Director, Head of the IT Unit.

B. Infrastructure

9. The infrastructure shall form a stable ground for Statistics Sweden's IT activities. It shall provide good conditions for both operations and development.

10. Taking the operational requirements into consideration, Statistics Sweden shall choose the most effective solutions for its IT infrastructure. Statistics Sweden shall apply current approved or de-facto standards to the construction of the infrastructure. In-house or proprietary solutions shall be avoided

C. General methodology work

11. Statistics Sweden's general methodology work shall provide effective methods and tools for the various phases in the process of statistics production.

12. All development of statistics production systems at Statistics Sweden shall be carried out according to a joint systems development model that gives active support to systems developers. Statistics Sweden shall normally use standard/commercial software for IT activities.

D. IT skills

13. Statistics Sweden shall have at its disposal sufficient IT skills to run production and development efficiently.

14. Each part of Statistics Sweden shall have access to the skills necessary to carry out the tasks emanating from their particular responsibilities. External consultants may be used to meet special needs. All employees shall continually develop their IT skills.

E. Operations and administration

15. The goal for operations is to provide a stable and cost-effective production environment. The operations organization shall see that sufficient capacity is available to meet the changing needs.

F. Security and confidentiality

16. Data and equipment in Statistics Sweden's network shall be reliably protected against unauthorized access, viruses and other unpredictable events. This also applies to data that is sent via an external network from respondents or to statistics recipients.